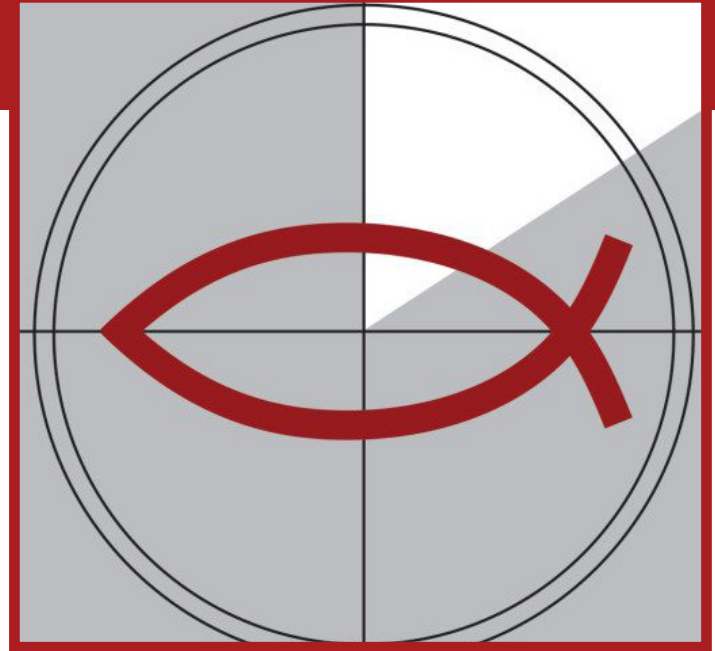


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FILM DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Ephesians 4 11-13 - So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

JUST MERCY

Just Mercy shares the story of how the director of the Equal Justice Initiative, Bryan Stevenson, met with death-row inmates in Alabama and discovered that Walter “Johnny D” McMillan was sentenced for a crime he did not commit. While the film is not overtly Christian, it does show the connection between the two men through their faith in Jesus, and the responsibility that Stevenson had to fight for McMillan’s freedom against great odds.

The audience is asked to consider what it means to love someone else as yourself - and what it means to lay one’s life down for one’s friends. The example Stevenson sets shows a level of courage and justice in love that challenges us to rise to the occasions that we encounter in our own lives.

1. What does Stevenson’s mother think he should use his law degree to do, and how does he show her that he’s called to do something more?
2. Stevenson experiences racism and injustice first hand even though he’s actually part of the justice system. What can we learn about the way that good systems can be corrupted?
3. What are situations that you’ve found yourself in where you were faced with what was easy and acceptable versus what was hard and righteous?
4. What are your thoughts about *Just Mercy* in light of what happened to George Floyd and the protests that have followed? What assumptions did you have that this film challenges?
5. Who are people you know who feel “hopeless,” and how does God call you to share hope with them? Whose cause(s) are you called to take up as your own?
6. Learn more about the Equal Justice Initiative or the University of Richmond’s Institute for Actual Innocence. What are ways that you can work right now for the rights of others?

- **Julie Levac’s Review of *Just Mercy*:** <https://screenfish.net/tiff-19-just-mercy/>
- **Jacob Sahms’ Review of *Just Mercy* on Dove.org:** <https://dove.org/just-mercy-is-a-film-we-need/>

If you’d like more information or would like to contact the creator of these discussion guides, visit screenfish.net or email Jacob at jacobsahms@gmail.com.

DUMBO

The live-action remake of the Disney classic *Dumbo* tells the story of the Farrier family, World War I amputee Holt and his two children, Joe and Milly, who work for the Medici Brothers' Circus. The family become the caretakers for the title character, an animal with incredibly large ears who can fly, and find themselves confronting the injustice of the way he's treated by others. When a large circus showman named Vandevere offers Medici a way to fame and glory, the Farriers and Dumbo experience great risk and must work together to save Dumbo's mother.

The film deals thematically with injustice and "isms" as Dumbo's ability isn't appreciated by everyone, especially those who want to control how everyone "fits" in the circus. The Farrier family shows several Christian ideals not in what they express in words but how they live their lives.

1. How are Dumbo's ears both a blessing and a curse? Why do you think the Farriers celebrate Dumbo's ability while others laugh at it?
2. What comparisons can you see between Holt Farrier's loss of an arm and Dumbo's big ears that can be a handicap or a different ability?
3. How does greed play a role in bad decisions characters make? What ultimately shows Medici what he should do and who he should be?
4. What Christian attributes do the Farriers show in standing up to Vandevere and supporting Dumbo? How do they "love their neighbor" even if their neighbor isn't human?
5. How is the circus like the body of the church that Paul writes about, in the ways that not everyone can or should do the same things but that all are important?

- **Darrel Manson's Review of *Dumbo*:** <https://screenfish.net/dumbo-celebrating-our-flaws/>
- **Jacob Sahms' Review of *Dumbo* on Dove.org:** <https://dove.org/disney-reminds-us-to-love-each-other/>

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